

Passed by the House on May 2, 1997, by a non-record vote; the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2525 on May 21, 1997, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 19, 1997, by a viva-voce vote.

Approved June 11, 1997.

Effective September 1, 1997.

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CHAPTER 650

H.B. No. 2526

AN ACT

relating to the duties of an attorney ad litem in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 107.014, Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 107.014. POWERS AND DUTIES OF ATTORNEY AD LITEM FOR CHILD. (a) An attorney ad litem appointed under this subchapter to represent a child ~~may~~:

(1) *shall* investigate to the extent the attorney ad litem considers appropriate to determine the facts of the case;

(2) *shall* obtain and review copies of all of the child's relevant medical, psychological, and school records; and

(3) *may* call, examine, or ~~and~~ cross-examine witnesses.

(b) An attorney ad litem appointed to represent a child shall within a reasonable time after the appointment:

(1) interview the child if the child is four years of age or older; ~~and~~

(2) interview individuals with significant knowledge of the child's history and condition; and

(3) *interview all parties to the suit.*

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 1997, and applies only to an attorney ad litem appointed on or after that date. An attorney ad litem appointed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the attorney ad litem was appointed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed by the House on April 25, 1997, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 22, 1997: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 11, 1997.

Effective September 1, 1997.

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CHAPTER 651

H.B. No. 2556

AN ACT

relating to eligibility for state assistance under the Indigent Health Care and Treatment Act for certain hospitals.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 61.037, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

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